

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically processing an image comprising the steps of:

locating, within the image, features having a high spatial variance by- thresholding and skeletonising the image to produce an image comprising single pixel width definition of features; and

discarding features of the produced image having a size less than a predetermined size; and

fitting curves to the remaining features; and

stroking the image with a series of brush strokes emanating from remaining features of the produced image in accordance with the fitted curves.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said brush stroke have decreasing sizes near important features of the image.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said brush strokes include opacity and bump maps for added realism.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the position of a predetermined portion of brush strokes undergoes random jittering.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of discarding comprises discarding located features having a size of less than 20 contiguous pixels.